



## What is CARE?

- ★ CARE (Community Action for a Renewed Environment) is a program designed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help communities work at the local level to address the risks from multiple sources of toxic pollutants in their environment. CARE was launched in Fall 2004.
- ★ Through CARE various local organizations, including non-profits, citizens, businesses, schools and Federal, state, and tribal or local government agencies create collaborative partnerships to address toxics in their local environment.
- ★ CARE promotes local action by providing technical support and federal funding directly to a locally-based collaborative partnerships.

## CARE's Goals

- ★ CARE strives to educate and support communities so they can:
- ✓ reduce risks from exposure to toxic pollutants through collaborative action at the local level;
- ✓ develop a comprehensive understanding of all sources of risk from toxics and set priorities for effective action; and
- ✓ create self-sustaining community-based partnerships that will continue to improve local environments.

## Why Should a Community Consider CARE?

- ★ CARE partners with local efforts, resources and knowledge to achieve results.
- ★ CARE promotes local consensus-based solutions that address risk comprehensively.
- ★ CARE educates and supports communities to address local environmental priorities by providing information about the pollution risks, funding opportunities, and access to other voluntary programs. CARE also supports those communities that wish to develop their own approach to reducing toxics exposures.
- ★ CARE enables partnerships to participate in a network of communities learning from and supporting each other.

## How Does CARE Work?

1. In March 2005 EPA announced its first CARE funding opportunity and asked for applications to apply for the CARE program. Grants were awarded in Fall 2005.
2. CARE offers two different types of Cooperative Agreements (a kind of grant): The smaller, Level I Cooperative Agreement (about \$85,000) and the larger, Level II Cooperative Agreement (about \$350,000).
3. At Level I, communities organize and create a collaborative partnership dedicated to reducing toxics in their local environment. Partners may include community groups, businesses, state, tribal and local government agencies, EPA, and others.
4. The Level I partnership works together to assess toxic problems in the community. Here, CARE provides the best information and tools available to make the task easier. The community group considers options for reducing risks and develops their priority list of risks they want to address.
5. At Level II, each community has already established broad-based collaborative partnership. (Successful completion of a Level I Cooperative Agreement is not required.) That partnership uses EPA funding to implement priority projects to reduce risk and improve the local environment. Throughout the process the partnership continues to reassess risks and priorities.
6. EPA will help the partnerships in their efforts to identify new resources that will allow the projects to become self-sustaining.
7. As a result, the community reduces toxic pollution and becomes the steward of its own environment.
8. EPA will offer another round of funding in 2006, and hopes to continue funding opportunities well into the future.

## How Is Care Different from Other EPA Programs?

- ★ CARE is *multi-media* – not focused on just one type of exposure (air, water or land).
- ★ In CARE, communities examine all toxic risks they face and choose or design the voluntary solutions that they feel best fit their needs.
- ★ CARE links agency programs together to efficiently support communities and effectively deliver a range of EPA voluntary programs

[www.epa.gov/CARE](http://www.epa.gov/CARE)